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CORRESPONDENCE, ETC., RELATING TO THE RECENT
REVOLUTION ON THE ISTHMUS OF PANAMA.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING,

IN RESPONSE TO RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES OF NOVEMBER 9, 1903, ALL CORRESPONDENCE AND
OTHER OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE RECENT
REVOLUTION ON THE ISTHMUS OF PANAMA.

NOVEMBER 16, 1903.—Message and accompanying papers referred to the Committee
on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

To the House of Representatives:

In response to a resolution of the House of Representatives of November 9, 1903, requesting the President "to communicate to the House if not, in his judgment, incompatible with the interests of the public service, all correspondence and other official documents relating to the recent revolution on the Isthmus of Panama," I transmit herewith copies of the papers called for.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

WHITE HOUSE, *Washington, November 16, 1903.*

The PRESIDENT:

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred a copy of the resolution of the House of Representatives of November 9, 1903, requesting copies of all correspondence and other official documents relating to the recent revolution on the Isthmus of Panama, has the honor to lay before the President copies of the correspondence from and to the Department of State on the subject.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN HAY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 13, 1903.

**CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND
THE UNITED STATES CONSULATE-GENERAL AT PANAMA.**

A press bulletin having announced an outbreak on the Isthmus, the following cablegram was sent both to the consulate-general at Panama and the consulate at Colon:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, F 1566
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Washington, November 3, 1903.
(Sent 3.40 p. m.)

Uprising on Isthmus reported. Keep Department promptly and fully informed.

LOOMIS, *Acting*.

Mr. Ehrman to Mr. Hay.

PANAMA, November 3, 1903.
(Received 8.15 p. m.)

No uprising yet. Reported will be in the night. Situation is critical.
EHRMAN.

Mr. Ehrman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

PANAMA, November 3, 1903.
(Received 9.50 p. m.)

Uprising occurred to-night, 6; no bloodshed. Army and navy officials taken prisoners. Government will be organized to-night, consisting three consuls, also cabinet. Soldiers changed. Supposed same movement will be effected in Colon. Order prevails so far. Situation serious. Four hundred soldiers landed Colon to-day Barranquilla.

EHRMAN.

Mr. Loomis to Mr. Ehrman.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 3, 1903.
(Sent 11.18 p. m.)

Message sent to *Nashville* to Colon may not have been delivered. Accordingly see that following message is sent to *Nashville* immediately:

NASHVILLE, *Colon*:

In the interests of peace make every effort to prevent Government troops at Colon from proceeding to Panama. The transit of the Isthmus must be kept open and order maintained. Acknowledge. (Signed) DARLING, *Acting*.

Secure special train, if necessary. Act promptly.

5-9897

LOOMIS, *Acting*.

Mr. Loomis to Mr. Ehrman.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 4, 1903.

(Sent 12.02 p. m.)

Communicate with commander of gunboat *Bogota* and state plainly that this Government being responsible for maintaining peace and keeping transit open across Isthmus desires him to refrain from wantonly shelling the city. We shall have a naval force at Panama in two days, and are now ordering men from the *Nashville* to Panama in the interests of peace.

LOOMIS, *Acting.*

Mr. Ehrman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

PANAMA, November 4, 1903.

(Received 7.10 p. m.)

Mass meeting held. Independence publicly declared. Three consuls approved organize government, composed Federico Boyd, José Agustin Arango, Tomas Arias. *Bogota* in sight.

EHRMAN.

Mr. Ehrman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

PANAMA, November 4, 1903.

(Received 9.50 a. m.)

Cables *Nashville* received. *Nashville* notified. Troops will not be moved. Last night gunboat *Bogota* fired several shells on city; one Chinaman killed. *Bogota* threatens bombard city to-day.

EHRMAN.

Mr. Ehrman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

PANAMA, November 5, 1903.

(Received 12.50 p. m.)

Received an official circular letter from the committee of the provisional government saying that on 4th political move occurred, and the Department of Panama withdraws from the Republic of the United States of Colombia and formed the Republic of Panama.

Requested to acknowledge the receipt of circular letter.

EHRMAN.

Mr. Loomis to Mr. Ehrman.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 5, 1903.
(Sent 3.15 p. m.)

Acknowledge the receipt of circular letter and await instructions before taking any further action in this line.

LOOMIS, *Acting.*

Mr. Loomis to Mr. Ehrman.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 5, 1903.
(Sent 5.09 p. m.)

Keep Department informed as to situation.

LOOMIS, *Acting.*

Mr. Ehrman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

PANAMA, November 5, 1903.
(Received 9.42 p. m.)

Colombian troops reembarked per Royal Mail for Carthagena. *Bogota* supposed at Buenaventura. Quiet prevails.

EHRMAN.

Mr. Ehrman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

PANAMA, November 6, 1903.
(Received 11.55 a. m.)

The situation is peaceful. Isthmian movement has obtained so far success. Colon and interior provinces have enthusiastically joined independence. Not any Colombian soldiers known on isthmian soil at present. *Padilla* equipped to pursue *Bogota*. Bunau Varilla has been appointed officially confidential agent of the Republic of Panama at Washington.

EHRMAN.

Mr. Hay to Mr. Ehrman.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 6, 1903.
(Sent 12.51 p. m.)

The people of Panama have, by an apparently unanimous movement, dissolved their political connection with the Republic of Colombia and

resumed their independence. When you are satisfied that a de facto government, republican in form, and without substantial opposition from its own people, has been established in the State of Panama, you will enter into relations with it as the responsible government of the territory and look to it for all due action to protect the persons and property of citizens of the United States and to keep open the isthmian transit in accordance with the obligations of existing treaties governing the relation of the United States to that territory.

Communicate above to Malmros, who will be governed by these instructions in entering into relations with the local authorities.

HAY.

Mr. Hay to Mr. Ehrman.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 6, 1903.

(Sent 2.45 p. m.)

I send, for your information and guidance in the execution of the instructions cabled to you to-day, the text of a telegram dispatched this day to the United States minister at Bogota:

The people of Panama having by an apparently unanimous movement dissolved their political connection with the Republic of Colombia and resumed their independence, and having adopted a government of their own, republican in form, with which the Government of the United States of America has entered into relations, the President of the United States, in accordance with the ties of friendship which have so long and so happily existed between the respective nations, most earnestly commends to the Governments of Colombia and of Panama the peaceful and equitable settlement of all questions at issue between them. He holds that he is bound, not merely by treaty obligations, but by the interests of civilization, to see that the peaceable traffic of the world across the Isthmus of Panama shall not longer be disturbed by a constant succession of unnecessary and wasteful civil wars.

HAY.

Mr. Ehrman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

PANAMA, November 6, 1903.

(Received 7.23 p. m.)

Filippe Bunau Varilla has been appointed envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the United States of America. Perfect quiet.

EHRMAN.

Mr. Ehrman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

PANAMA, November 8, 1903.

(Received 11.23 p. m.)

It is reported that Colombian authorities have detained English steamers *Manavi* and *Quito* at Buenaventura. Supposed to be to bring troops to the Isthmus.

EHRMAN

Mr. Ehrman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

PANAMA, *November 7, 1903.*

(Received 12.20 p. m.)

I have communicated to Panama Government that they will be held responsible for the protection of the persons and property of citizens of the United States, as well as to keep the isthmian transit free in accordance with obligations of existing treaties relative to the isthmian territory.

EHRMAN.

Mr. Ehrman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

PANAMA, *November 10, 1903.*

(Received 1.35 p. m.)

Federico Boyd, a member of the Committee of the Government, Amador Guerrero, both delegates, on the way to Washington to arrange in satisfactory manner to the United States the canal treaty and other matters. Pablo Arosemena, attorney, proceeds next steamer. English steamers were not held at Buenaventura. Gunboat *Bogota* has left Buenaventura.

EHRMAN.

Mr. Loomis to Mr. Ehrman.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, November 10, 1903.

(Sent 3.42 p. m.)

Keep in touch with commander of United States naval forces at Panama, advising him concerning news bearing on military situation.

LOOMIS, *Acting.*

Mr. Ehrman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

PANAMA, *November 11, 1903.*

(Received 5.32 p. m.)

I am officially informed that Bunau Varilla is the authorized party to make treaties. Boyd and Amador have other missions and to assist their minister.

EHRMAN.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND
THE UNITED STATES CONSULATE AT COLON.

Mr. Malmros to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

COLON, *November 3, 1903.*

(Received 2.35 p. m.)

Revolution imminent. Government force on the Isthmus about 500 men. Their official promised support revolution. Fire department Panama, 441, are well organized and favor revolution. Government vessel, *Cartagena*, with about 400 men, arrived early to-day with new commander in chief, Tobar. Was not expected until November 10. Tobar's arrival is not probable to stop revolution.

MALMROS.

Mr. Loomis to Mr. Malmros.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 3, 1903.

(Sent 4 p. m.)

Are troops from the vessel *Cartagena* disembarking or preparing to land?

LOOMIS.

Mr. Loomis to Mr. Malmros.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
Washington, November 3, 1903.

(Sent 4.28 p. m.)

Did you received and deliver to *Nashville* last night or early this morning a message?

LOOMIS, *Acting.*

Mr. Malmros to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

COLON, *November 3, 1903.*

(Received 8.20 p. m.)

Troops from vessel *Cartagena* have disembarked; are encamping on Pacific dock awaiting orders to proceed to Panama from commander in chief, who went there this morning. No message for *Nashville* received.

MALMROS.

Mr. Loomis to Mr. Malmros.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 3, 1903.
(Sent 8.45 p. m.)

The troops which landed from the *Cartagena* should not proceed to Panama.

LOOMIS, *Acting.*

Mr. Loomis to Mr. Malmros.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 3, 1903.
(Sent 10.10 p. m.)

An important message was sent at 6 Monday night in your care for the *Nashville*. Make all possible effort to get it.

LOOMIS.

Mr. Hay to Mr. Malmros.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 3, 1903.
(Sent 10.30 p. m.)

If dispatch to *Nashville* has not been delivered inform her captain immediately that she must prevent Government troops departing for Panama or taking any action which would lead to bloodshed, and must use every endeavor to preserve order on Isthmus.

HAY.

Mr. Malmros to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

COLON, November 4, 1903.
(Received 3.35 p. m.)

Met captain of *Nashville* at 6 p. m. yesterday. Heard that message had been delivered to captain boat alongside of wharf instead of to me. No rebels or invading force near Panama or Colon or line of transit. Panama intended revolutionary movement known here to few persons only, up to 8 a. m. to-day. Revolutionary committee of six in Panama at 6 p. m. took charge of revolutionary movement. General Tobar and five officers taken prisoners. Panama in possession of committee with consent of entire population. This fact appears not known as yet to conservatives in Colon. Panama committee expect to have 1,500 men armed by this time. State of affairs at

Panama not known by Colombian force at Colon as yet. Official in command of disembarked force applied for transportation this morning. Captain meanwhile communicated to committee about 10 p. m. last night his refusal to allow train with force to be sent to Panama and the committee assented. This leaves Colon in the possession of the Government.

MALMROS.

Mr. Malmros to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

COLON, *November 5, 1903.*

(Received 11.50 a. m.)

On arrival yesterday morning's train Panama revolution and Tobar's imprisonment became generally known; 12.30 commander Colombian troops threatens to kill every American unless Tobar released by 2 p. m. Provisional Government informed these facts. *Nashville* landed 50 men; stationed in and near railroad office where Americans, armed, met. Negotiations Colombian commander and Panama Government commenced and progressing. Hostilities suspended. Colombians occupy Colon and Monkey Hill.

MALMROS.

Mr. Loomis to Mr. Malmros.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 5, 1903.

(Sent 5.10 p. m.)

What is the situation this evening?

LOOMIS, *Acting.*

Mr. Malmros to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

COLON, *November 5, 1903.*

(Received 9.34 p. m.)

All Colombian soldiers at Colon now, 7 p. m., going on board Royal Mail steamer returning to Cartagena. Vessel, supposed to be *Dixie*, in sight.

MALMROS.

Mr. Malmros to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

COLON, *November 6, 1903.*

(Received 4.50 p. m.)

Tranquillity absolute in Colon. Porfirio Melendez appointed governor of this province. Proclaimed Republic of Panama at Colon pre-

fectura at 10 o'clock a. m. English and French consuls present. I arrived after proclamation, and upon my suggestion I told governor that presence of consuls must not be looked upon as recognition of revolutionary state by their respective Governments. Melendez sent steam launch to Bocas del Toro to proclaim independence.

MALMROS.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PANAMA GOVERNMENT.

[Telegram.—Translation.]

PANAMA, *November 4, 1903.*

(Received 8.45 p. m.)

SECRETARY OF STATE, *Washington:*

We take the liberty of bringing to the knowledge of your Government that on yesterday afternoon, in consequence of a popular and spontaneous movement of the people of this city, the independence of the Isthmus was proclaimed and, the Republic of Panama being instituted, its provisional government organizes an (executive) board consisting of ourselves, who are assured of the military strength necessary to carry out our determination.

JOSÉ A. ARANGO.
FEDERICO BOYD.
TOMAS ARIAS.

[Telegram.—Translation.]

PANAMA, *November 4, 1903.*

(Received 10.30 p. m.)

A. SU EXCELENCIA PRESIDENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS,

Washington:

The municipality of Panama is now (10 p. m.) holding a solemn session, and joins in the movement of separation of the Isthmus of Panama from the rest of Colombia. It hopes for recognition of our cause by your Government.

DEMETRO S. BRIDA.

[Telegram.—Translation.]

PANAMA, *November 5, 1903.*

(Received 8.48 p. m.)

SECRETARY OF STATE, *Washington:*

We notify you that we have appointed Señor Philippe Bunau Varilla confidential agent of the Republic of Panama near your Government and Dr. Francisco V. de la Espriella minister of foreign affairs.

ARANGO.
BOYD.
ARIAS.

[Telegram.—Translation.]

PANAMA, *November 6, 1903.*

(Received 10.40 a. m.)

SECRETARY OF STATE, *Washington:*

Colon and all the towns of the Isthmus have adhered to the declaration of independence proclaimed in this city. The authority of the Republic of Panama is obeyed throughout its territory.

ARANGO.
ARIAS.
BOYD.

[Telegram.—Translation.]

PANAMA, *November 6, 1903.*

SECRETARY OF STATE, *Washington:*

The board of provisional government of the Republic of Panama has appointed Señor Philippe Bunau Varilla envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary near your Government with full powers to conduct diplomatic and financial negotiations. Deign to receive and heed him.

J. M. ARANGO,
TOMAS ARIAS,
FEDERICO BOYD,
Foreign Relations.

[Telegram.—Translation.]

NEW YORK, *November 7, 1903.*

(Received 1.40 p. m.)

His Excellency JOHN HAY, *Secretary of State:*

I have the privilege and the honor of notifying you that the Government of the Republic of Panama have been pleased to designate me as its envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary near the Government of the United States. In selecting for its first representative at Washington a veteran servant and champion of the Panama Canal, my Government has evidently sought to show that it considers a loyal and earnest devotion to the success of that most heroic conception of human genius as both a solemn duty and the essential purpose of its existence. I congratulate myself, sir, that my first official duty should be to respectfully request you to convey to His Excellency the President of the United States on behalf of the people of Panama an expression of the grateful sense of their obligation to his Government. In extending her generous hand so spontaneously to her latest born, the Mother of the American Nations is prosecuting her noble mission as the liberator and the educator of the peoples. In spreading her protecting wings over the territory of our Republic the American Eagle has sanctified it. It has rescued it from the barbarism of unnecessary and wasteful civil wars to consecrate it to the destiny assigned to it by Providence, the service of humanity and the progress of civilization.

PHILIPPE BUNAU VARILLA.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND
THE UNITED STATES LEGATION AT BOGOTA.

Mr. Beaupré to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

BOGOTA, November 4, 1903.

(Received November 6, 1903, 5 p. m.)

Fourth, 5 p. m. Confidential. I have been shown telegram from reliable source in Panama to the effect that Isthmus is preparing for secession and that proclamation of independence may be expected soon. The particulars carefully guarded. Reliable information hard to obtain. This Government is evidently alarmed and troops are being sent to Isthmus. Repeat telegrams of importance from United States consul-general. His telegrams to me may be interfered with.

BEAUPRÉ.

Mr. Hay to Mr. Beaupré.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 6, 1903.

The people of Panama having by an apparently unanimous movement dissolved their political connection with the Republic of Colombia and resumed their independence, and having adopted a government of their own—republican in form—with which the Government of the United States of America has entered into relations, the President of the United States, in accordance with the ties of friendship which have so long and so happily existed between the respective nations, most earnestly commends to the Governments of Colombia and of Panama the peaceful and equitable settlement of all questions at issue between them. He holds that he is bound not merely by treaty obligations but by the interests of civilization, to see that the peaceful traffic of the world across the Isthmus of Panama shall not longer be disturbed by a constant succession of unnecessary and wasteful civil wars.

HAY.

Mr. Beaupré to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

BOGOTA, November 6, 1903.

(Received November 8—11.05 p. m.)

November 6, 6 p. m. Knowing that the revolution has already commenced in Panama, ———— says that if the Government of the United States will land troops to preserve Colombian sovereignty, and the transit, if requested by the Colombian chargé d'affaires, this Government will declare martial law, and by virtue of vested constitutional authority, when public order is disturbed, will approve by decree the ratification of the canal treaty as signed; or, if the Government of the United States prefers, will call extra session of Congress with new and

friendly members next May to approve the treaty. General Reyes has the perfect confidence of Vice-President, he says, and if it becomes necessary will go to the Isthmus or send representatives there to adjust matters along above lines to the satisfaction of the people there. If he goes he would like to act in harmony with the commander of the United States forces. This is the personal opinion of Reyes, and he will advise this Government to act accordingly. There is a great reaction of public opinion in favor of the treaty, and it is considered certain that the treaty was not legally rejected by Congress. To-morrow martial law will be declared; 1,000 troops will be sent from the Pacific side; about the same number from the Atlantic side. Please answer by telegraph.

BEAUPRÉ.

Mr. Beaupré to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

BOGOTA, November 7, 1903.

(Received November 10—7.30 p. m.)

November 7, 2 p. m. General Reyes leaves next Monday for Panama, invested with full powers. He has telegraphed chiefs of the insurrection that his mission is to the interests of Isthmus. He wishes answer from you, before leaving, to the inquiry in my telegram of yesterday, and wishes to know if the American commander will be ordered to cooperate with him and with new Panama Government to arrange peace and the approval of canal treaty, which will be accepted on condition that the integrity of Colombia be preserved. He has telegraphed President of Mexico to ask the Government of the United States and all the countries represented at the Pan-American conference to aid Colombia to preserve her integrity. The question of the approval of the treaty mentioned in my telegram of yesterday will be arranged in Panama. He asks that before taking definite action you will await his arrival there, and that the Government of the United States in the meantime preserve the neutrality and transit of the Isthmus and do not recognize the new Government. Great excitement here. Martial law has been declared in the Cauca and Panama. Answer.

BEAUPRÉ.

Mr. Beaupré to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

BOGOTA, November 7, 1903.

(Received November 10, 7.55 p. m.)

November 7, 6 p. m. As the Government of the United States has war vessels at Panama and Colon, minister for foreign affairs has requested me to ask, Will you allow Colombian Government to land troops at those ports to fight there and on the line of railway? Also if the Government of the United States will take action to maintain Colombian right and sovereignty on the Isthmus in accordance with article 35, the treaty of 1846, in case the Colombian Government is entirely unable to suppress the secession movement there?

I am entirely unable to elicit from minister for foreign affairs confirmation of the promises made by ————.

BEAUPRÉ.

Mr. Beaupré to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

BOGOTA, *November 9, 1903.*

(Received November 11, 12.30 a. m.)

November 9, 9 a. m. I am desired to inform you by General Reyes that Gen. Bedronel Ospina and Lucas Cabellero, prominent party leaders, accompany him on his mission.

Very great excitement here. Large crowds paraded streets yesterday, crying "Down with Marroquin." Mass meeting denounced him; called for a change of government. Hundreds gathered at the palace, and their orator, a prominent national general, addressed the President, calling for his resignation. Troops dispersed gathering, wounding several. Martial law is declared here, and the city is being guarded by soldiers. Legation of the United States under strong guard, but apparently no indications of hostile demonstration.

The residence of Lorenzo Marroquin attacked with stones.

Referring to the questions presented by minister for foreign affairs in my telegram of 7th, I have preserved silence, but bear in mind page 578, Foreign Relations, part 3, 1866, and instructions 134 to minister to the United States of Colombia, 1865.

BEAUPRÉ.

Mr. Hay to Mr. Beaupré.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, November 11, 1903.

(Sent 12.12 p. m.)

Earnestly desiring an amicable solution of matters at issue between Colombia and Panama, we have instructed our consul-general at Panama to use good offices to secure for General Reyes a courteous reception and considerate hearing. It is not thought desirable to permit landing of Colombian troops on Isthmus, as such a course would precipitate civil war and disturb for an indefinite period the free transit which we are pledged to protect. I telegraphed you on November 6 that we had entered into relations with the provisional government.

HAY.

**CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND
THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES OF COLOMBIA.**

Mr. Hay to Doctor Herran.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, November 6, 1903.

DEAR DOCTOR HERRAN: I inclose copy of a dispatch which has to-day been sent to our minister at Bogota.

Very sincerely, yours,

JOHN HAY.

[Inclosure.]

Mr. Hay to Mr. Beaupré.

[Telegram.]

NOVEMBER 6, 1903.

BEAUPRÉ, *Bogota:*

The people of Panama having by an apparently unanimous movement dissolved their political connection with the Republic of Colombia and resumed their independence, and having adopted a government of their own, republican in form, with which the Government of the United States of America has entered into relations, the President of the United States, in accordance with the ties of friendship which have so long and so happily existed between the respective nations, most earnestly commends to the governments of Colombia and Panama the peaceful and equitable settlement of all questions at issue between them. He holds that he is bound not merely by treaty obligations, but by the interests of civilization, to see that the peaceable traffic of the world across the Isthmus of Panama shall not longer be disturbed by a constant succession of unnecessary and wasteful civil wars.

HAY.

Dr. Herran to Mr. Hay.

[Translation.]

LEGATION OF COLOMBIA,
Washington, D. C., November 7, 1903.

EXCELLENCY: I acknowledge the reception of your excellency's note of the 6th instant, inclosing a copy of the telegram sent on the same day to the legation of the United States at Bogota by the Department of State.

In that telegram your excellency refers to the relations already entered into by the Government of the United States of America with the Colombian rebels who on the evening of the 3d usurped the power in the capital of the Colombian Department of Panama and imprisoned the lawful civil and military authorities.

Your excellency will undoubtedly receive the reply of the Colombian Government through the same channel that was used to forward the notice of which your excellency was pleased to send me a copy, but, in the meanwhile, I am discharging a duty by lodging in advance with your excellency, in the name of my Government, a solemn protest against the attitude assumed in the Department of Panama, by the Government of the United States to the injury of Colombia's rights and in disaccord with the stipulations of article 35 of the still existing treaty of 1846-1848 between Colombia and the United States of America.

I reiterate, etc.,

TOMAS HERRAN.

Mr. Hay to Dr. Herran.

No. 22.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 11, 1903.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 7th instant, in which, acknowledging my communication of the 6th instant, you are pleased, of your own motion and in the absence of instructions from your Government, to lodge a protest against the attitude assumed by the Government of the United States in respect to the situation on the Isthmus of Panama.

Accept, sir, etc.,

JOHN HAY.

Mr. Tower to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES,
Berlin, November 10, 1903.

(Received 5.40 p. m.)

In regard to the report telegraphed from New York that the Colombian consul-general there had declared that Colombian citizens had petitioned the Colombian Government to send a deputation to thank the German Government for its offered protection and to make concessions of land to Germany therefor, I have just received the assurance of the German minister for foreign affairs that there is no truth whatever in this report. He added that Germany has no interest in the Panama matter, and that the question of an interference on the part of Germany does not exist.

TOWER.

Mr. Porter to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.]

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, November 11, 1903.

(Received 3.50 p. m.)

The French generally are much pleased with events in Panama and our attitude there. In conversation with minister for foreign affairs he expressed himself in very sympathetic manner. Has authorized French consul at Panama to enter into relations with de facto government. Recognition will no doubt follow in time, and it seems to be disposition of European powers to await formal recognition by the United States before acting.

PORTER.

RECEPTION OF MINISTER OF PANAMA.

Mr. Varilla to Mr. Hay.

[Translation.]

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA,
Washington, November 11, 1903.

MR. SECRETARY OF STATE:

I have the very great honor to bring to your knowledge the fact that the Republic of Panama has designated me to fill, near the Government of the United States of America, the post of envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary with full powers to negotiate.

While begging you, Mr. Secretary of State, to transmit to His Excellency the President of the Republic of the United States the substance of the present communication, I venture to ask you to solicit from his kindness the appointment of a date on which he will authorize me to present to him my letters of credence.

I have, etc.,

P. BUNAU VARILLA.

Mr. Loomis to Mr. Varilla.

No. 1.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 12, 1903.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 11th instant, in which you advise me that the Republic of Panama has appointed you to fill, near this Government, the post of envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary, with full powers to negotiate.

You further ask that this information may be communicated to the President and that he will kindly fix a date at which you may present your letters of credence.

In reply I have the honor to say that the President will be pleased to receive you for the purpose mentioned to-morrow, Friday, at 9.30 a. m.

If you will be good enough to call at this Department shortly before the hour mentioned, the Secretary of State will be pleased to accompany you to the White House.

Accept, etc.,

FRANCIS B. LOOMIS,
Acting Secretary.

REMARKS MADE BY THE MINISTER OF PANAMA.

MR. PRESIDENT: In according to the minister plenipotentiary of the Republic of Panama the honor of presenting to you his letters of credence you admit into the family of nations the weakest and the last born of the republics of the New World.

It owes its existence to the outburst of the indignant grief which stirred the hearts of the citizens of the Isthmus on beholding the despotic action which sought to forbid their country from fulfilling the destinies vouchsafed to it by Providence.

In consecrating its right to exist, Mr. President, you put an end to what appeared to be the interminable controversy as to the rival waterways, and you definitely inaugurate the era of the achievement of the Panama Canal.

From this time forth the determination of the fate of the canal depends upon two elements alone, now brought face to face, singularly unlike as regards their authority and power, but wholly equal in their common and ardent desire to see at last the accomplishment of the heroic enterprise for piercing the mountain barrier of the Andes.

The highway from Europe to Asia, following the pathway of the sun, is now to be realized.

The early attempts to find such a way unexpectedly resulted in the greatest of all historic achievements, the discovery of America. Centuries have since rolled by, but the pathway sought has hitherto remained in the realm of dreams. To-day, Mr. President, in response to your summons, it becomes a reality.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY TO THE REMARKS MADE BY SEÑOR BUNAU VARILLA ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF HIS LETTERS OF CREDENCE.

MR. MINISTER: I am much gratified to receive the letters whereby you are accredited to the Government of the United States in the capacity of envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Republic of Panama.

In accordance with its long-established rule, this Government has taken cognizance of the act of the ancient territory of Panama in reasserting the right of self-control and, seeing in the recent events on the Isthmus an unopposed expression of the will of the people of Panama and the confirmation of their declared independence by the institution of a de facto government, republican in form and spirit, and alike able and resolved to discharge the obligations pertaining to sovereignty, we have entered into relations with the new Republic. It is fitting that we should do so now, as we did nearly a century ago when the Latin peoples of America proclaimed the right of popular government, and it is equally fitting that the United States should, now as then, be the first to stretch out the hand of fellowship and to observe toward the new-born State the rules of equal intercourse that regulate the relations of sovereignties toward one another.

I feel that I express the wish of my countrymen in assuring you, and through you the people of the Republic of Panama, of our earnest hope and desire that stability and prosperity shall attend the new State, and that, in harmony with the United States, it may be the providential instrument of untold benefit to the civilized world through the opening of a highway of universal commerce across its exceptionally favored territory.

For yourself, Mr. Minister, I wish success in the discharge of the important mission to which you have been called.

Navy Department,
Washington, November 12, 1903.

SIR: In accordance with the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 9th instant, calling for all correspondence and other official documents relating to the recent revolution on the Isthmus of Panama, I have the honor to transmit herewith all such matter on file in the Navy Department.

Very respectfully,

WILLIAM H. MOODY,
Secretary.

The PRESIDENT.

Navy Department,
Washington, D. C., November 2, 1903.

[Translation.]

NASHVILLE, care American Consul, Colon:^a

Maintain free and uninterrupted transit. If interruption threatened by armed force, occupy the line of railroad. Prevent landing of any

^a Same order to commander of *Dixie*, at Kingston, Jamaica.

armed force with hostile intent, either Government or insurgent, either at Colon, Porto Bello, or other point. Send copy of instructions to the senior officer present at Panama upon arrival of *Boston*. Have sent copy of instructions and have telegraphed *Diez* to proceed with all possible dispatch from Kingston to Colon. Government force reported approaching the Isthmus in vessels. Prevent their landing if in your judgment this would precipitate a conflict. Acknowledgment is required.

DARLING, *Acting*.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., November 2, 1903.

GLASS, *Marblehead, Acapulco:* ^a

Proceed with all possible dispatch to Panama. Telegraph in cipher your departure. Maintain free and uninterrupted transit. If interruption is threatened by armed force occupy the line of railroad. Prevent landing of any armed force, either Government or insurgent, with hostile intent at any point within 50 miles of Panama. If doubtful as to the intention of any armed force, occupy Ancon Hill strongly with artillery. If the *Wyoming* would delay *Concord* and *Marblehead* her disposition must be left to your discretion. Government force reported approaching the Isthmus in vessels. Prevent their landing if in your judgment landing would precipitate a conflict.

DARLING, *Acting*.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., November 3, 1903.

CRUISER ATLANTA, *Kingston, Jamaica:*

Proceed with all possible dispatch to Colon. Acknowledge immediately. When will you sail?

DARLING, *Acting*.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., November 3, 1903.

NASHVILLE, *Colon:*

In the interest of peace make every effort to prevent Government troops at Colon from proceeding to Panama. The transit of the Isth- must be kept open and order maintained. Acknowledge.

DARLING, *Acting*.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., November 3, 1903.

AMERICAN CONSUL, *Panama:*

Message sent *Nashville* to Colon may not have been delivered. Accordingly see that the following message is sent to *Nashville* immediately:

^a Same to commander of *Boston* at San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua.

NASHVILLE, *Colon:*

In the interest of peace make every effort to prevent Government troops at Colon from proceeding to Panama. The transit of the Isthmus must be kept open and order maintained. Acknowledge.

DARLING, *Acting.*

Secure special trains if necessary. Act promptly.

LOOMIS, *Acting.*

[Translation.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., November 4, 1903.

NASHVILLE, *Colon:*

Gunboat of Colombia shelling Panama. Send immediately battery 3-inch field gun and 6-pounder with a force of men to Panama to compel cessation bombardment. Railroad must furnish transportation immediately.

DARLING, *Acting.*

[Translation.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., *November 5, 1903.*

BOSTON, *care of American consul, Panama:*

Prevent recurrence bombardment of Panama. Acknowledge.

MOODY.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., November 5, 1903.

NASHVILLE, *Colon:*

Prevent any armed force of either side from landing at Colon, Porto Bello, or vicinity.

MOODY.

[Translation.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., *November 6, 1903.*

MAINE, *Woods Hole, Mass.:*

Proceed at once to Colon, coaling wherever necessary to expedite your arrival. Acknowledge.

MOODY.

[Translation.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., *November 9, 1903.*

DIEHL, *Boston:*

Upon the arrival of the *Marblehead* sufficient force must be sent to watch movements closely of the British steamers seized at Buenaventura and to prevent the landing of men with hostile intent within limits of the State of Panama. Protect the British steamers if necessary.

MOODY.

[Translation.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., *November 10, 1903.*

GLASS, *Marblehead, Panama:*

Reported that the British steamers at Buenaventura were not detained. Did they leave with Colombian troops aboard?

MOODY.

[Translation.]

COLON, *October 15, 1903.*

SECNAV, *Washington, D. C.:*

Report is current to the effect that a revolution has broken out in the State of Cauca. Everything is quiet on the Isthmus unless a change takes place. On this account there is no necessity to remain here. Do not think it necessary to visit St. Andrews Island.

HUBBARD,
Commanding Officer U. S. S. Nashville.

[Translation.]

COLON, *November 3, 1903.*

SECNAV, *Washington, D. C.:*

Receipt of your telegram of November 2 is acknowledged. Prior to receipt this morning about 400 men were landed here by the Government of Colombia from Cartagena. No revolution has been declared on the Isthmus and no disturbances. Railway company have declined to transport these troops except by request of the governor of Panama. Request has not been made. It is possible that movement may be made to-night at Panama to declare independence, in which event I will * * * (message mutilated here) here. Situation is most critical if revolutionary leaders act.

HUBBARD.

[Translation.]

COLON, *November 4, 1903.*

SECNAV, *Washington:*

Provisional government was established at Panama Tuesday evening; no organized opposition. Governor of Panama, General Tobar, General Amaya, Colonel Morales, and three others of the Colombian Government troops who arrived Tuesday morning taken prisoner at Panama. I have prohibited transit of troops now here across the Isthmus.

HUBBARD

COLON, *November 4, 1903.*

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, *Washington, D. C.:*

Government troops yet in Colon. Have prohibited transportation of troops either direction. No interruption of transit as yet. Will make every effort to preserve peace and order.

HUBBARD.

COLON, *November 4, 1903.*

SECNAV, *Washington, D. C.:*

I have landed force to protect the lives and property of American citizens here against threats Colombian soldiery. I am protecting water front with ship. I can not possibly send to Panama until affairs are settled at Colon.

HUBBARD.

ACAPULCO, MEXICO, *November 4, 1903.*

SECRETARY NAVY, *Washington, D. C.:*

Marblehead and *Concord* to Panama to-day 4 p. m.; *Wyoming* will follow to-morrow afternoon. If *Boston* is to go with squadron, I would suggest Department will order her to rendezvous off Cape Mala, Colombia, about 6 p. m., on November 9. I have ordered *Nero* to Acapulco. I will leave sealed orders for her to proceed without delay to Panama unless otherwise directed.

GLASS.

COLON, *November 5, 1903—9.41 a. m.*

SECNAV, *Washington, D. C.:*

British man-of-war *Amphion* is protecting American interests at Panama. Reported bombardment much exaggerated.

HUBBARD.

COLON, *November 5, 1903—9.45 a. m.*

SECNAV, *Washington D. C.:*

Have withdrawn force landed Wednesday afternoon. No bloodshed. I do not apprehend difficulty of any serious nature.

HUBBARD.

COLON, *November 5, 1903.*

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, *Washington, D. C.:*

Situation here this morning again acute. Have deemed advisable to reland force.

HUBBARD.

[Translation.]

COLON, *November 5.*

SECNAV, *Washington:*

Atlas Line's steamer, with large body of troops, reported sailing from Cartagena, Colombia.

HUBBARD.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

Washington, D. C., Colon, November 6, 1903.

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,

Washington, D. C.:

All quiet. Independents declare Government established as Republic of Panama. Have withdrawn marines.

DELANO.

COLON, *November 6, 1903—9.15 a. m.*

SECNAV, *Washington:*

Arrived Thursday evening; landed force. Following conditions prevailing: Just before landing all the troops of Colombia have left for R. M. S. P. Company's steamer *Orinoco* for Cartagena. Independent party in possession of Colon, Panama, and railroad line. *Nashville* withdrawn force.

DELANO.

[Translation.]

PANAMA, *November 7, 1903—7.40 p. m.*

SECNAV, *Washington:*

All quiet; traffic undisturbed; message to prevent received.

DIEHL.

COLON, *November 8, 1903—7.05 p. m.*

SECNAV, *Washington, D. C.:*

Atlanta left yesterday for Bocas del Toro.

DELANO.

PANAMA, *November 9.*

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,
Washington:

The British consul and the minister of war of the provisional government fear seizure of two British steamers at Buenaventura to transport troops convoyed by gunboat. Prevailed upon minister to dispatch gunboat, fearing possible destruction British steamers. The landing of troops in the territory within the limit under my control will cause prolonged campaign. Instructions from the Department are requested.

DIEHL.

PANAMA, *November 10, 1903.*

SECNAV:

Your telegram of the 9th of November to the *Boston* acknowledged. No interference British vessels yet. Report seems to be well founded that the steamship *Bogota* sailed from Buenaventura yesterday afternoon with 1,000 for Rio Dulce. Have sent *Concord* to patrol in that vicinity in order to prevent landing. Everything is quiet at Panama.

GLASS.

REVOLUTION ON THE ISTHMUS OF PANAMA.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE RECENT REVOLUTION ON THE ISTHMUS OF PANAMA.

NOVEMBER 27, 1903.—Read; referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

To the House of Representatives:

In response to a resolution of the House of Representatives of November 9, 1903, requesting the President "to communicate to the House, if not, in his judgment, incompatible with the interests of the public service, all correspondence and other official documents relating to the recent revolution on the Isthmus of Panama," I transmit herewith copies of additional papers on the subject which have been received subsequent to the resolution referred to.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, November 27, 1903.

THE PRESIDENT:

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred a copy of the resolution of the House of Representatives of November 9, 1903, requesting copies of all correspondence and other official documents relating to the recent revolution on the Isthmus of Panama, has the honor to lay before the President copies of additional correspondence on the subject received subsequent to the resolution referred to.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN HAY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 24, 1903.

No. 464.] CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Panama, November 9, 1903.

Hon. FRANCIS B. LOOMIS,
Assistant Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to say that on the 5th instant I received from the Committee of the Provisional Government a circular letter (No. 1), dated November 4, 1903, informing me that Panama had dissolved its political relations with the Republic of Colombia and requesting me to acknowledge receipt of circular. Inclosed please find translation of circular letter, marked "A." I immediately cabled the Department the contents of said circular letter, and upon receipt of the Department's cable instructing me to acknowledge receipt of circular and await instructions, I wrote acknowledging same. Please find copy of my letter, marked "B."

On receipt of the two telegrams from the Department in regard to entering into relations with the local authorities here, being satisfied that there was a de facto government established, and as there was no opposition to same in the State of Panama, I wrote on the morning of the 7th to the committee, informing them that they would be held responsible for the protection of the persons and property of American citizens, as well as responsible for carrying out treaty obligations, in accordance with treaties in regard to Isthmian territory. Inclosed please find copy of my letter, marked "C."

On the afternoon of the 8th instant I received a letter from the minister of foreign relations, saying that the Republic of Panama would protect American citizens and their property, as well as to carry out all treaty obligations in regard to Isthmian territory. Inclosed find translation of letter, marked "D."

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

FELIX EHRLMAN,
United States Vice-Consul-General.

A.

[Translation.]

CIRCULAR } REPUBLIC OF PANAMA, PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT,
No. 1. } *Panama, November 4, 1903.*

SIR: We have the honor of informing you, for your knowledge and that of the Government which you represent, that in this date a political movement has taken place by which the former department of Panama is separated from the Republic of Colombia, in order to constitute a new state under the name of "Republic of Panama," and that those who subscribe themselves have received the honor of being designated to form the Committee of the Provisional Government of the Republic.

We beg you to kindly acknowledge receipt and accept the sentiments of consideration, which it is pleasing to subscribe ourselves.

Your attentive servants,

J. A. ARANGO.
TOMAS ARIAS.
FEDERICO BOYD.

The CONSUL-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA, *Pte.*

B.

PANAMA, November 5, 1903.

Messrs. J. A. ARANGO, TOMAS ARIAS, and FEDERICO BOYD,
Committee of the Provisional Government, Panama.

SIRS: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your circular letter No. 1, dated November 4, 1903.

I am, sirs, very respectfully, yours,

FELIX EHRLMAN,
United States Vice-Consul-General.

C.

PANAMA, November 7, 1903.

MESSRS. J. A. ARANGO, TOMAS ARIAS, and FEDERICO BOYD,
Committee of the Provisional Government, present.

GENTS: As it appears that the people of Panama have, by unanimous movement, dissolved their political connection with the Republic of Colombia and resumed their independence, and as there is no opposition to the Provisional Government in the State of Panama, I have to inform you that the Provisional Government will be held responsible for the protection of the persons and property of citizens of the United States, as well as to keep the Isthmian transit free, in accordance with obligations of existing treaties relative to the Isthmian territory.

I have the honor to remain, gentlemen, very respectfully,

FELIX EHMAN,
United States Vice-Consul-General.

D.

[Translation.]

No. 2.]

REPUBLIC OF PANAMA,
Panama, November 8, 1903.

SIR: The Committee of the Provisional Government, informed of your communication of yesterday, has requested me to inform you that the Republic of Panama shelters the most sincere determination of protecting, as it has so far protected, the lives and properties of the United States citizens, determination that involves for the Republic a sacred and pleasant duty, and that in regard to the obligations existing on account of treaties in connection with the isthmian territories heretofore with the Republic of Colombia are now with the Republic of Panama that has substituted the former in them and their rights.

With the sentiments of the highest consideration, I beg to remain,
Very attentive servant,

F. V. DE LA ESPRIELLA.

The VICE-CONSUL-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

No. 463.]

CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Panama, November 9, 1903.

Hon. FRANCIS B. LOOMIS,
Assistant Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to report that on the 3d of November, at about 6 p. m., there occurred an uprising in the city of Panama. It seems that everything had been prearranged with the officials of the army and navy, as there was practically accord among all the officers. General Tovar, General Castro, and Commander Tovar of the gunboat *Bogota*, finding out about the movement just a short while before it occurred, rushed to the barracks in the hope of frustrating the plans, but on their arrival General Huertas, second in command of the troops stationed at Panama, and chief of the "Colombia Battalion," ordered the soldiers out and arrested the above-mentioned generals, together with Governor Obaldia. The movement was to occur at 8 o'clock, but as the people had assembled and everything in readiness they moved at 6 o'clock. At 8 o'clock a boat was sent off from the gunboat *Bogota*, saying that unless Generals Tovar and Castro were set at liberty immediately they would bombard the town. This note was not answered by the people on shore.

At about 10 o'clock on the night of the 3d the *Bogota* fired several shells, which were answered by the fort. These shots struck in different parts of the city, and one Chinaman was killed. After firing, the *Bogota* hoisted her anchor and steamed away. She was supposed to be behind some islands which are directly in front of Panama. On the morning of the 4th I received information direct from one of the chiefs of the movement, and he said that the *Bogota* had threatened to again bombard the city, and on this I immediately sent word by telegraph to the commander of the *Nashville* and cabled the Department. The consular corps met in this consulate-general and decided to send a protest to the commander of the *Bogota*, protesting against the action of the commander. Inclosed please find copy of protest, marked "A." This letter was not sent, as the *Bogota* was not in sight and no boats were available at the time. The gunboat *Twenty-first of November* (*Padilla*) was lying off Panama all this time, but did not try to intercept or pursue the *Bogota*. On the morning of the 4th the *Twenty-first of November* came in and anchored near the fort, and in the afternoon of the same day hauled down the Colombian flag and hoisted the flag of Panama. In the afternoon of the 4th, at 3 p. m., there was a general mass meeting held in the central plaza, and the declaration of independence was read and signed. The following is a list of the Government officials, as given me by the Committee of the Provisional Government:

Committee of Provisional Government, J. A. Arango, Tomas Arias, and Federico Boyd; minister of government, Eusebio A. Morales; minister of foreign relations, F. V. De la Espriella; minister of war and marine, Nicanor A. De Obarrio; minister of justice, Carlos A. Mendoza; minister of finance, Manuel E. Amador; minister of public instruction, Julio J. Fabrega; chief of the division of Panama, Gen. Domingo Diaz; general in chief of the army of the Republic, Gen. Esteban Huertas; commander of civil battalion, Gen. Manuel Quintero; general treasurer of the Republic, Señor Albino Arosemena; commander of the gunboat *Twenty-first of November*, Gen. H. O. Jeffries.

I may say that the above mentioned are all men of high standing in Panama and men who have had wide experience in public affairs.

During the recent troubles I am pleased to state that everything was carried on in an orderly manner, and I have not heard of a case where foreigners were threatened or molested in any way.

Inclosed I send you clipping from the *Star* and *Herald* of this city containing a translation of the declaration of independence and manifesto by the Committee of the Provisional Government, marked "B."

We have heard several stories of the happenings in Colon, but I will leave that to be reported on from Colon, as we have received nothing definite. The declaration of independence was read and signed at Colon at 1.30 p. m. on the afternoon of the 5th instant.

Telegrams have been received from different parts of the department of Panama, and all say that independence has been unanimously declared.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

FELIX EHRLMAN,
United States Vice-Consul-General.

A.

[Translation.]

PANAMA, November 4, 1903.

The COMMANDER OF THE BOGOTA,

SIR: The consular corps of this city considers the action of the steamship *Bogota*, under your command, last night in bombarding a defenseless city without advice of any kind to the consuls is contrary to all rights and practice of civilized nations. Consequently the consular corps protests in the most solemn manner, and holds responsible for the consequences and responsibilities of this act whoever is to blame, furnishing account to their respective governments of the referred circumstance.

Yours respectfully,

FELIX EHRLMAN,
United States Vice-Consul-General.
 E. H. ROHRWEGGER,
Acting British Vice-Consul.
 EMILE GREY,
Agent of the French Consulate.
 ARTHUR KOHPCKE,
Consul of Germany and in charge of Italian Consulate.
 A. JESURUM, JR.,
Consul of Holland.
 ED. JARAMILLO AVILES,
Consul of Ecuador.
 J. F. ARANGO,
Consul-General of Guatemala.
 FEDERICO BOYD,
Consul of Spain and of Salvador.
 JACOB L. MADURO,
Consul of Denmark.
 B. D. FIDANQUE,
Consul of Belgica.
 J. G. DUQUE,
Consul of Cuba.
 B. MENDEZ,
Consul of Mexico.
 PEDRO ARIAS,
Consul of Brazil.
 JERONIMO OSSA,
Consul of Chile and Honduras.
 JUAN VALLARINO,
Consul of Peru.

B.

Declaration of independence and manifesto.

[Extract from Star and Herald, Panama (Republic of Panama), Thursday, November 5, 1903.]

INDEPENDENCE OF PANAMA.

"Viva la Republica de Panama!"

"Viva la independencia!"

At last the State of Panama has awakened from the torpor which appeared to have overpowered all branches of its population. The people have at last come to the conclusion that there was no hope for their future as long as they remained under the jurisdiction of the national Government as a department of the Republic of Colombia and have risen in a body to protest to the injustice meditated by the Bogota Government toward them in refusing its sanction to the Herran-Hay canal treaty, the passing of which treaty actually means life or death to the State of Panama.

The cry of independence was started on the evening of the 3d and taken up by every Isthmian as one body, as well as all those in sympathy with the cause. Due to the celebrated Battalion Colombia, under the command of their intrepid and

universally-beloved commander, Gen. E. Huertas, being in sympathy with the movement and declaring themselves on the side of the "separatists," all bloodshed, fighting, etc., has been avoided, the greatest order and unity reigning on all sides. The populace repaired without distinction to the arsenal and were supplied with the necessary arms with which to uphold their independence.

The movement had been planned to take place later on, but was precipitated by the arrival at Colon of 300 troops under command of Generals Tovar and Amaya on the *Cartagena* on the night of the 2d instant. The only deplorable incident has been the killing of two Chinamen and part destruction of two buildings in the city by some shells thrown from the cruiser *Bogota*, the commander of which refused his adhesion to the cause and threatened to bombard the city unless Generals Tovar and Amaya and their staffs, who were imprisoned on the afternoon of the 3d while attempting to take command of the garrison in this city, were released within three hours.

This request was not acceded to, in consequence of which the threat was carried out, but as the ship has got very little coal and supplies there is no doubt that she will not be able to hold out long and will have to surrender to the *21 de Noviembre*, which is being gotten ready for giving chase. The consular corps met and signed the following formal protest:

PANAMA, November 4, 1903.

THE COMMANDER OF THE BOGOTA.

SIR: The consular corps of this city considers the action of the steamship *Bogota*, under your command, last night in bombarding a defenseless city, without advice of any kind to the consuls, is contrary to all right and practice of civilized nations. Consequently the consular corps protests in the most solemn manner, and holds responsible for the consequences and responsibilities of this act whoever is to blame, furnishing account to their respective governments of the referred-to circumstance.

Yours, respectfully,

FELIX EHRLMAN,
United States Vice-Consul-General.

E. H. ROHRVEGER,
Acting British Vice-Consul.

EMILE GREY,
Agent of the French Consulate.

ARTHUR KOEHPKE,
Consul of Germany and in charge of the Italian Consulate.

A. JESURUM, Jr.,
Consul of Holland.

ED. JARAMILLO AVILES,
Consul of Ecuador.

I. F. ARANGO,
Consul-General of Guatemala.

FEDERICO BOYD,
Consul of Spain and of Salvador.

JACOB L. MADURO,
Consul of Denmark.

B. D. FIDANQUE,
Consul of Belgica.

J. G. DUQUE,
Consul of Cuba.

B. MENDEZ,
Consul of Mexico.

PEDRO ARIAS,
Consul of Brazil.

JERONIMO OSSA,
Consul of Chile and Honduras.

JUAN VALLARINO,
Consul of Peru.

In compliance with an invitation stuck up and distributed all over the city by the municipal board, Demetrio H. Brid, president, a public meeting of all the corporations, civilians, military and religious bodies took place at 3 p. m. yesterday at the Cathedral Park, where the act of independence was signed by the members of the municipality, the chiefs of the Provisional Government, etc., after which patriotic speeches were delivered in profusion.

The Provisional Government has been composed of the following gentlemen: Jose Agustin Arango, Federico Boyd, and Tomas Arias, with the following ministers: State, E. A. Morales; treasury, M. E. Amador; justice, C. A. Mendoza; foreign relations, F. V. de la Espriella; war and navy, N. A. de Obarrio.

From latest information we regret to state that Colon does not appear inclined to join the movement for separation. A commission from that city arrived yesterday evening to consult with the chiefs of the Provisional Government here, and we sincerely hope that the differences of opinion existing may be amicably settled in order to avoid all disturbance. The manifesto and declaration of independence we have translated for the benefit of our English readers.

We voice the sentiments of one and all, natives as well as foreigners, in wishing great prosperity to the new Republic.

Hurrah for the Republic of Panama!

Hurrah for the third of November!

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

In the city of Panama, capital of the district of the same name, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the 4th day of November, 1903, the municipal council by its own right assembled, there being present the following members of the city council: Aizpuru, Rafael; Arango, Ricardo M.; Arias, F. Agustin; Arosemena, Fabio; Brid, Demetrio H.; Chiari, R. Jose Maria; Cucalon, P.; Manuel, J.; Dominguez, Alcides; Lewis, Samuel; Linares, Enrique; McKay, Oscar M.; Mendez, Manuel Maria, and Vallarino, Dario, the mayor of the district and the municipal attorney, and having for its exclusive object to debate regarding the situation in which the country is at present, and to decide regarding what should be most convenient toward the tranquillity for the development and aggrandizement of the citizens that constitute the ethnographic and political entity denominated the Isthmus of Panama.

Councilmen Arias, F., Arosemena, Chiari, Brid, Cucalon, B., Aizpuru, Lewis, and Linares carefully took under special consideration the historical facts by virtue of which the Isthmus of Panama, by its own free will and in hopes of procuring for itself the ample benefits of right and liberty, cut asunder, on the 28th of November, 1821, its ties from Spain, and spontaneously joined its destiny to that of the great Republic of Colombia. Reflections were made tending to show that the union of the Isthmus with the old and modern Colombia did not produce the benefits that were expected from this act, and on mature consideration particular mention was made of the great and incessant injury that has been caused to the Isthmus of Panama in its material and moral interests at all times by the governments of the nation which have succeeded each other during the intervals of the federation, as well as those of the centralization—injuries which, instead of being looked after and patriotically remedied by those whose duty it was, were being augmented each day and increasing in importance with a persistency and ignorance that has exterminated in the cities of the Department of Panama the inclinations which were spontaneously felt for Colombia, thus demonstrating to them that, their cup of bitterness overflowing and all hope of the future being lost, the moment had arrived in which to dissolve certain ties which were a drawback to civilization, which placed insurmountable barriers to all progress, and which, on the whole, has produced unhappiness, upsetting and undoing the ends of the political union in which they entered, moved by the necessity to satisfy the desire of prospering within the right respected and liberty assured.

In view of the circumstances mentioned, the municipal council of the district of Panama, as a faithful interpreter of the sentiments of those they represent, declares in a solemn form that the people under their jurisdiction from to-day and henceforth sever their ties with Colombia in order to form, with the other towns of the Department of Panama that accept the separation and unite with them, the State of Panama, so as to constitute a republic with an independent government, democratic, representative, and responsible, that would tend to the happiness of the natives and of the other inhabitants of the territory of the Isthmus.

In order to practically attain the fulfillment of the resolution of the peoples of Panama of emancipating themselves from the Government of Colombia, making use of their autonomy in order to dispose of their destiny, to establish a new nationality free from all foreign elements, the municipal council of the district of Panama, for itself and in the name of the other municipal councils of the department, places the administration, working, and direction of affairs, temporarily and while the new Republic be constituted, in a board of government composed of Messrs. Jose Agustin Arango, Federico Boyd, and Tomas Arias, in whom and without any reserve whatsoever it gives powers, authorizations, and faculties necessary and sufficient for the satisfactory compliance of the duties which in the name of the Fatherland are confided to them.

It was ordered that the inhabitants of Panama be assembled to an open council in order to submit for their approval the ordinance that the present minutes contain, and which was signed by the officers and members of the corporation present.

Demetrio H. Brid, R. Aizpuru, A. Arias F., Manuel J. Cucalon P., Fabio Arosemena, Oscar M. McKay, Alcides Dominguez, Enrique Linares, J. M. Chiari R., Dario Vallarino, S. Lewis, Manuel M. Mendez.

The secretary of the council, Ernesto J. Goti.

In our next issue we will publish the very extensive list of the signers of the above declaration.

MANIFESTO.

The transcendental act that by a spontaneous movement the inhabitants of the Isthmus of Panama have just executed is the inevitable consequence of a situation which has become graver daily.

Long is the recital of the grievances that the inhabitants of the Isthmus have suffered from their Colombian brothers; but those grievances would have been withstood with resignation for the sake of harmony and national union had its separation been possible and if we could have entertained well-founded hopes of improvement and of effective progress under the system to which we were submitted by that Republic. We have to solemnly declare that we have the sincere and profound conviction that all the hopes were futile and useless, all the sacrifices on our part.

The Isthmus of Panama has been governed by the Republic of Colombia with the narrow-mindedness that in past times were applied to their colonies by the European nations—the isthmian people and territory was a source of fiscal resources and nothing more. The contracts and negotiations regarding the railroad and the Panama Canal and the national taxes collected in the Isthmus have netted to Colombia tremendous sums which we will not detail, not wishing to appear in this exposition which will go down to posterity as being moved by a mercenary spirit, which has never been nor is our purpose; and of these large sums the Isthmus has not received the benefit of a bridge for any of its numerous rivers, nor the construction of a single road between its towns, nor of any public building, nor of a single college, and has neither seen any interest displayed in advancing her industries, nor has a most infinite part of those sums been applied toward her prosperity.

A very recent example of what we have related above is what has occurred with the negotiations of the Panama Canal, which, when taken under consideration by Congress, was rejected in a summary manner. There were a few public men who expressed their adverse opinion, on the ground that the Isthmus of Panama alone was to be favored by the opening of the canal by virtue of a treaty with the United States, and that the rest of Colombia would not receive any direct benefits of any sort by that work, as if that way of reasoning, even though it be correct, would justify the irreparable and perpetual damage which would be caused to the Isthmus by the rejection of the treaty in the manner in which it was done, which was equivalent to the closing of the doors to future negotiations.

The people of the Isthmus, in view of such notorious causes, have decided to recover their sovereignty and begin to form a part of the society of the free and independent nations, in order to work out its own destiny, to insure its future in a stable manner, and discharge the duties which it is called on to do by the situation of its territory and its immense richness.

To that we, the initiators of the movement effected, aspire and have obtained a unanimous approval.

We aspire to the formation of a true republic, where tolerance will prevail, where the law should be the invariable guide of those governing and those governed, where effective peace be established, which consists in the frequent and harmonious play of all interests and all activities, and where, finally, civilization and progress will find perpetual stability.

At the commencement of the life of an independent nation we fully appreciate the responsibilities that state means, but we have profound faith in the good sense and patriotism of the isthmian people, and we possess sufficient energy to open our way by means of labor to a happy future without any worry or any danger.

At separating from our brothers of Colombia we do it without any hatred and without any joy. Just as a son withdraws from his paternal roof, the isthmian people in adopting the lot it has chosen have done it with grief, but in compliance with the supreme and inevitable duty it owes to itself—that of its own preservation and of working for its own welfare.

We therefore begin to form a part among the free nations of the world, considering Colombia as a sister nation, with which we shall be whenever circumstances may require it, and for whose prosperity we have the most fervent and sincere wishes.

JOSE AGUSTIN ARANGO.
FEDERICO BOYD.
TOMAS ARIAS.





